

REMARKS

Claims 41-50 are pending in this application. Claims 33-40 are canceled by this amendment. Claims 41-50 have been added. Support for the added claims can be found in the specification on p. 10, line 13 through p. 11, line 2 and p. 13, line 15 through p. 16, line 10. No new matter has been added.

In response to the Examiner's objections, the abstract has been rewritten and is now directed to the presently claimed invention. The specification has been amended to update the status of each parent application and to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added. In response to the Examiner's objection to the oath or declaration, Applicants submitted with the filing papers a copy of a Supplemental Declaration and Power of Attorney, dated September 21, 1999, which was submitted in the parent case to overcome a similar objection. In the event that this was misplaced or otherwise was not included with the file, Applicants attach hereto a copy of that document.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".


In view of the standing rejections over Inoue (USPN 5,676,671), Bley et al (USPN 5,674,241), Wiktor (USPN 4,886,062) and Tu et al. (USPN 4,816,339) Applicants submit that none prevent patentability of the pending claims. Specifically, none of the references cited against the previous (and now canceled) claims disclose or suggest an endoluminal prosthesis, comprising an elongate support wire member joined to a polymer cladding, the joined support wire member and polymer cladding being helically wrapped into an open cylindrical structure such that adjacent windings of the polymer cladding have overlapping regions that are bonded to one another.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 19, 2003

By:


Todd W. Wight
Registration No. (45,218)

Morrison & Foerster LLP
555 West Fifth Street
Suite 3500
Los Angeles, California 90013-1024
Telephone: (949) 251-7189
Facsimile: (949) 251-0900

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

The paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

This application is a divisional of application Serial No. 08/999,583, filed December 22, 1997, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,264,684, [with] which is a continuation-in-part of three applications: 1) International Application [Ser.] No. PCT/US95/16497, filed December 8, 1995, [and] which was nationalized [under U.S. Application Ser.] as Serial No. 09/077,533, filed May 28, 1998, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,053,943; 2) [U.S. Application Ser.] Serial No. 08/833,797, filed April 9, 1997, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,451,047, which is a continuation-in-part of [U.S. Application Ser.] application Serial No. 08/508,033, filed July 27, 1995, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,749,880, which is a continuation-in-part of [U.S. Application Ser.] application Serial No. 08/401,871, filed March 10, 1995, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,124,523; and 3) [U.S. Application Ser.] Serial No. 08/794,871, filed February 5, 1997, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,039,755. This application [and each of the foregoing applications are commonly assigned and their disclosures are incorporated by reference] expressly incorporates by reference the entirety of each of the above-mentioned applications as if fully set forth herein.

The paragraph beginning at line 27 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

Figure 4B is a side elevational cross-sectional view of Figure 4A [withy] with a support member wrapped about an abluminal surface of the graft member.